

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computing apparatus configured to be coupled to a metadata database and ~~metadata database management system~~ for at least one information database,

wherein the at least one information database is coupled to receive information from at least one information source and coupled to provide information to at least one information consumer, the ~~metadata database management system comprising:~~

——a metadata database for storing metadata associated with data stored in the at least one information database, for storing metadata associated with the at least one information source, and for storing metadata associated with the at least one information consumer, the computing apparatus having ; and

——a knowledge manager configured to be coupled to the metadata database, ~~the knowledge manager and comprising at least one~~ a plurality of metadata applications for managing a plurality of knowledge aspects of the at least one information database, ~~the at least one metadata application~~ for accessing at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database, and ~~the at least one metadata application~~ for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one of ~~the~~ a plurality of knowledge aspects of the at least one information database, the plurality of metadata applications comprising:

a data model manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one data model of the at least one information database;

a data dictionary manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one data dictionary of the at least one information database;

a knowledge entity manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one knowledge entity of the at least one information database;

a data mapper for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one data mapping of the at least one information database; and

a change manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one change associated with the at least one information database.

2. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1 being adapted for dynamically coupling to the at least one information database.

3. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1 being adapted for dynamically coupling to the plurality of information sources.

4. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1 being adapted for dynamically coupling to the plurality of information consumers.

5. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one information source comprises at least another information database, the ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus is configured for coupling to the at least another information database, and the metadata database is for storing metadata associated with the at least another information database.

6. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 5, wherein the at least another information database has at least another one information source coupled thereto, the ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus is configured for coupling to the at least another one information source, and the metadata database is for storing metadata associated with the at least another one information source.

7. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 5, wherein the at least another information database has at least another

one information consumer coupled thereto, the ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus is configured for coupling to the at least another one information consumer, and the metadata database is for storing metadata associated with the at least another one information consumer.

8. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one information consumer comprises at least one other information database, the ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus is configured for coupling to the at least one other information database, and the metadata database is for storing metadata associated with the at least one other information database.

9. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein the at least one other information database is coupled to at least one other information source, the ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus is configured for coupling to the at least one other information source, and the metadata database is for storing metadata associated with the at least one other information source.

10. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 8, wherein the at least one other information database is coupled to at least one other information consumer, the ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus is configured for coupling to the at least one other information consumer, and the metadata database is for storing metadata associated with the at least one other information consumer.

11. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a knowledge portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one knowledge metadata.

12. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata—database—management—system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a knowledge entity portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one knowledge entity metadata.

13. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata—database—management—system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a data mapping portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one data mapping metadata.

14. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata—database—management—system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a data dictionary portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one data dictionary metadata.

15. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata—database—management—system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a change management portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one change management metadata.

16. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata—database—management—system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a business rules portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one business rules metadata.

17. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata—database—management—system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a business event portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one business event metadata.

18. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a reference and standards portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one reference and standards metadata.

19. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a multiple language portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one multiple language metadata.

20. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database constitute a document resources portion of the metadata database, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one document resources metadata.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ metadata applications further comprises a data dictionary manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one data dictionary of the at least one information database

Claims 23-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ metadata applications further comprises a business rules processor for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one business rule associate with the at least one information database.

27. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ metadata applications further comprises a reference and standards processor for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one reference of the at least one information database.

28. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 27, wherein the at least one reference comprises at least one standard.

29. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ metadata applications further comprises a performance manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one performance aspect of the at least one information database.

30. (Currently amended) A ~~metadata database management system~~computing apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ metadata applications further comprises a graphical user interface for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one graphical user interface aspect of the at least one information database.

31. (Currently amended) A metadata database coupled to ~~for a metadata database management system of~~ at least one information database and configured, ~~wherein the at least one database is coupled~~ to receive information from at least one information source and ~~coupled~~ to provide information to at least one information consumer, the metadata database comprising:

a metadata repository for storing metadata associated with data stored in the at least one information database, for storing metadata associated with the at least one information source, and for storing metadata associated with the at least one information consumer, the metadata repository comprising:

a knowledge portion and at least some of the metadata comprises at least one knowledge metadata;

a knowledge entity portion and at least some of the metadata comprises at least one knowledge entity metadata;

a data mapping portion and at least some of the metadata comprises at least one data mapping metadata;

a data dictionary portion and at least some of the metadata comprises at least one data dictionary metadata; and

a change management portion and at least some of the metadata comprises at least one change management metadata.

Claims 32-36. (Currently amended).

37. (Currently amended) A metadata database in accordance with claim 31, ~~wherein at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata repository constitute~~ further comprising a business rules portion of the metadata repository, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one business rules metadata.

38. (Currently amended) A metadata database in accordance with claim 31, ~~wherein at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata repository constitute~~ further comprising a business event portion of the metadata repository, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one business event metadata.

39. (Currently amended) A metadata database in accordance with claim 31, ~~wherein at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata repository constitute~~ further comprising a reference and standards portion of the metadata repository, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one reference and standards metadata.

40. (Currently amended) A metadata database in accordance with claim 31, ~~wherein at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata repository constitute~~ further comprising a multiple language portion of the metadata repository, and wherein at least some of the metadata comprises at least one multiple language metadata.

41. (Currently amended) A metadata database in accordance with claim 31, ~~wherein at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata repository constitute further comprising a document resources portion of the metadata repository, and wherein the at least some of the metadata comprises at least one document resources metadata.~~

42. (Currently amended) A knowledge manager for a metadata database management system of at least one information database, wherein the at least one information database is coupled to receive information from at least one information source and coupled to provide information to at least one information consumer, the knowledge manager ~~comprising:~~
~~—— at least one having a plurality of metadata applications for coupling to a metadata database, the at least one metadata application for managing a plurality of knowledge aspects of the at least one information database, the at least one metadata application for accessing at least some of the metadata stored in the metadata database, and the at least one metadata application for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one of the plurality of knowledge aspects of the at least one information database, the plurality of metadata applications comprising:~~

a data model manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one data model of the at least one information database;

a dictionary manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one data dictionary of the at least one information database;

a data mapper for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one data mapping of the at least one information database;

a change manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one change associated with the at least one information database.

43. (Cancelled).

44. (Cancelled).

45. (Currently amended) A knowledge manager in accordance with claim 42, ~~wherein~~ the ~~at least one plurality of~~ metadata applications further comprises a knowledge entity manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one knowledge entity of the at least one information database.

46. (Cancelled).

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently amended) A knowledge manner in accordance with claim 42, ~~wherein the~~ ~~at least one plurality of~~ metadata applications further comprises a business rules processor for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one business rule associate with the at least one information database.

49. (Currently amended) A knowledge manager in accordance with claim 42, ~~wherein~~ the ~~at least one plurality of~~ metadata applications further comprises a reference and standards processor for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one reference of the at least one information database.

50. (Currently amended) A knowledge manager in accordance with claim 49, wherein the at least one reference comprises at least one standard.

51. (Currently amended) A knowledge manager in accordance with claim 42, ~~wherein~~ the ~~at least one plurality of~~ metadata applications further comprises a performance manager for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one performance aspect of the at least one information database.

52. (Currently amended) A knowledge manager in accordance with claim 42, ~~wherein~~ the ~~at least one plurality of~~ metadata applications further comprises at least one graphical user

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interface for using the at least some of the metadata to manage at least one graphical user
| interface aspect of the at least one information database.